1.   A method of programming an instrument of the type wherein a marking

2   implement is used to mark a surface, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a surface including visible options relating to the programming of the

4   instrument;

storing information relating to the location of surface positions accessible by the

6   marking implement;

moving at least the marking implement relative to the visible options for selection

8   purposes; and

programming the instrument by correlating the position of the implement during

10   the movement thereof to determine the options selected.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of moving at least the implement

2   includes moving the implement in two dimensions.

3.   The method of claim 1, further including the step of moving the surface

2   relative to the implement during the selection process.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the instrument is a chart recorder and the

2   surface is on a chart.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein the chart is a circular chart.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the options relate to one or more of the

2   following:

date or time,   /

4   the operation of an external controller,

a mathematical function,

6   an event message,

the function of a communications channel, or

8   the calibration of the instrument.

7.   The method of claim 1, further including the step of indexing the surface

2   relative to a start position in conjunction with the step of storing information relating to

the location of surface positions accessible by the marking implement.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the options are selected by marking the

2   surface with the implement.

9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the options are selected by underscoring,

2   circling or otherwise highlighting desired options, or by striking out undesired options.

10.   The method of claim 1, further including the step of marking a new

2   surface in response to a user command subsequent to the programming of the instrument

to obtain a record of currently selected options.

11.   A method of programming a chart recorder having a pen to mark a chart,

2   comprising the steps of:

providing a chart including printed parameters relating to the programming of the

4   recorder;

placing the chart in a start position, enabling the recorder to advance to known

6   positions on the chart using movements of the pen, chart, or both;

moving at least the pen relative to the printed parameters so as to select certain of

8   the parameters by marking the chart with the pen; and

programming the recorder by correlating the position of the pen relative to the

10   chart during the selection of the parameters..

12.   The method of claim 11, wherein the known locations on the chart are in

2   two dimensions.

13.   The method of claim 11, wherein the chart is a circular chart.

14.   The method of claim 11, wherein the printed parameters relate to one or

2   more of the following:

date or time,

4   the operation of an external controller,

a mathematical function,

6   an event message,

           the function of a communications channel, or

8   the calibration of the instrument.

           15.   The method of claim 11, wherein the parameters are selected by

2   underscoring, circling or otherwise highlighting desired parameters, or by striking out

    undesired parameters.

           16.   The method of claim 11, further including the step of marking a new chart

2   in response to a user command subsequent to the programming of the instrument to

    obtain a record of currently selected options.